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TELEGRAM

May 26, 2004

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1743 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: PREL, MASS, MCAF, MOPS
Captions: None
Subject: UAE HOSTS ANNUAL EAGLE RESOLVE EXERCISE
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 01743

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: USLO ECON RSO AMB DCM P/M DAO

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT USLO:RSIMM

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 6594
INFO RHMFISS/COMUSCENTAF SHAW AFB SC
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OSD/NESA//
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUEHJM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0167
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0492

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001743

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2014
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [MCAF](#) [MOPS](#) [GCC](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE HOSTS ANNUAL EAGLE RESOLVE EXERCISE

Ref: Abu Dhabi 286

(U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba for reasons
1.5 (B) and (D).

¶1. (C) Summary: The GCC states face a "real and growing
threat" from Weapons of Mass Destruction, and they should
act now to pool their resources and bolster their

cooperative defense, Commander of UAE Air Forces and Air Defense, Staff Air Vice-Marshal Khalid Abdullah Mobarak Al-Buainain told participants at the annual multinational EAGLE RESOLVE exercise's Executive Seminar in Abu Dhabi on May 23. Military officers from the GCC states and CENTCOM assembled to conduct a series of table-top drills designed to demonstrate how the different armed forces can better cooperate to ensure that their air defenses can respond to threats from WMD.

¶2. (C) The exercise, to which the Jordanians and Egyptians were invited as observers, was another significant illustration of the growing role the UAE military is playing in the Gulf region. Last January, the UAE opened the Gulf Air Warfare Center (GAWC) at the Al Dhafra Air Base near Abu Dhabi, bringing together air force officers from the U.S., UK, France, and the Gulf countries for joint exercises and opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences (see reftel). U.S. participation in the GAWC's first exercise that concluded in February and a second exercise that ended May 26 falls under the auspices of the joint exercise IRON FALCON. End Summary.

¶3. (C) For the first time since 1999, when CENTCOM began sponsoring EAGLE RESOLVE exercises under the auspices of its Cooperative Defense Initiative for the GCC, the United Arab Emirates played the role of host. There were approximately 230 U.S. participants in the exercise, which ran from May 15 to May 24. The exercise was divided into two major segments - a computer-based command-and-control scenario play (COORDEX), and an Executive Seminar for Ministers of Defense, Chiefs of Defense, senior military personnel, and Ambassadors to discuss the results of the exercise, lessons learned, and the road ahead. Lt. General Buchanan, Commander of USCENTAF, was the senior U.S. military officer. USCENTCOM Commander General Abizaid and Deputy Commander Lt. General Smith, and USNAVCENT Commander Vice Admiral Nichols, could not attend because of other priorities or commitments. All the GCC states with the exception of Saudi Arabia attended the coordination exercise, the Saudis saying that they never received an invitation. The Saudis did, however, attend the May 23-24 EAGLE RESOLVE Executive Seminar, as did Ambassador Oberwetter.

¶4. (C) At the Executive Seminar on May 23, the UAE Armed Forces' Deputy Chief of Staff, Staff Maj. Gen. Hamad Mohammed Thani Al-Rumaithy, Lt. Gen. Buchanan, and Ambassador Wahba all made remarks underscoring the importance of interoperability and cooperative defense. Hamad Thani said cooperative defense was key to preserving the peace and security of the region. Buchanan said the need to defeat threats of WMD has been magnified since EAGLE RESOLVE exercises began in 1999. The exercise is an opportunity for the different armed forces to share information and "come to the assistance of one another in times of need," Buchanan said.

¶5. (C) UAE Air Forces and Air Defense Commander, Staff Air Vice-Marshal Khalid Al-Buainain, said the UAE faced several threats, including terrorism, cyber warfare, WMD, and traditional ballistic missiles. The GCC as a whole needed to make integrated missile defense a high priority, he added. Khalid said the GCC states should commit themselves to creating a region free of WMD, enhancing their military interoperability, building a GCC conventional deterrence, and holding additional joint exercises and training. As he did during the inaugural GAWC ceremony, Khalid also talked about the importance of intellectual interoperability among the air forces of different countries being just as important as the training, and encouraged the intellectual exchange that will take place among cooperating nations as they plan and carry out future exercises. "We need complete transparency" when exchanging information. "Information power is as important as firepower. The GCC needs seamless information from commanders to warriors," Khalid said.

¶6. (C) Comment: EAGLE RESOLVE once again illustrated the expanding nature of our bilateral military relationship with the UAE, as well as the growing role the UAE military is playing in the Gulf region. U.S. military officers expressed great satisfaction with the UAE armed forces and the conduct of the exercise. The UAE's AFAD Commander Al-Buainain's renewed call for "multinational thinking" and "cultural interoperability" have become trademarks of this visionary in the UAE armed forces' ranks.

WAHBA